

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EMMA L. JOHNSTON, CO-FOUNDER OF PEACE, INC. AND HER TIRELESS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OTHERS

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Emma L. Johnston.

Ms. Johnston is a native of Syracuse, New York, and one of the founders of PEACE, Inc. (People's Equal Action and Community Effort, Inc.). On Wednesday, May 28, 2014, the Southside Family Resource Center in Syracuse, New York, will be renamed in honor of Emma Johnston.

As a single mother, Ms. Johnston was able to lift herself out of poverty with the help of her community. The kindness and ready aid of her neighbors inspired Ms. Johnston to become one of the founding members of PEACE, Inc. in 1968, when it consisted of twenty employees and three programs.

Today, PEACE, Inc. boasts fifteen programs, 400 employees, and fifty sites across New York. Its mission—helping disadvantaged individuals attain self-sufficiency—is visibly accomplished every day in Syracuse. This progress would not be possible without Ms. Johnston's pioneering work.

Thanks to Ms. Johnston's tireless years of service, PEACE now includes services ranging from Big Brother, Big Sister to Energy and Housing Services, and from Men in the Lives of Kids to tax assistance. As PEACE has grown and developed, so has the New York community—a feat for which we truly cannot thank Ms. Johnston enough.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Emma L. Johnston for her tireless work with PEACE, Inc., and to wish her the best of health and luck in all her future endeavors.

HONORING DAVE HOBSON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Ohio National Guard and U.S. Air Force Space Command for establishing the new Hobson Cyberspace Communications Complex at the Springfield, Ohio, Air National Guard Base in honor of former U.S. Representative David Hobson.

The new facility—which houses the Ohio Air National Guard's 251st Cyber Engineering Installation Group and 269th Combat Communications Squadron—consists of nearly 32,000 square feet of administration and training

space, with an additional 15,700 square feet of supply and warehouse space for 38 full-time personnel and 174 traditional guard members.

The complex is critical to Air Force Space Command's federal mission and the Ohio National Guard's homeland security and peace-time missions supporting local, state and national response operations such as cyberspace and communications infrastructure activities, civil disturbances or natural disaster response. The advanced technological features of the complex will significantly increase the units' capacity to support critical missions for command and control of cyberspace defense missions.

As an Ohio Air National Guard veteran, former Representative Hobson learned firsthand just how much service members and their families sacrifice to serve their country. During his 18 years in Congress, Representative Hobson successfully obtained federal funding for military projects that have improved the lives and working conditions for National Guard members at home and overseas.

Mr. Speaker, it was my honor and privilege to serve alongside of Representative Hobson in the House and on the Appropriations Committee during his service. I believe that it is fitting and proper that this facility be named in his honor.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

For the last 53 years, Congress has passed—and the President has signed into law—the annual Defense Authorization bill, allowing us to provide the critical resources the Armed Forces need to maintain the best military in the world. The NDAA has also allowed Congress to have an open dialogue about many of the difficult choices with which we are confronted, including the significant financial constraints that our military is operating under. While I appreciate the House Armed Services Committee's continued support of our servicemembers and our national defense, I have serious concerns with a number of misguided provisions in this year's NDAA.

This year's authorization bill authorizes \$513.4 billion in budget authority, including \$495.8 billion for the Department of Defense and \$79.4 billion in overseas contingency operations (OCO). Unfortunately, it rejects many cost saving measures recommended by the Pentagon and would eliminate more than \$50 billion in potential savings for our military over the next five years.

Of particular concern, H.R. 4435 prioritizes unrequested weapons systems and parochial interests over our military readiness. It slashes military readiness by \$1.2 billion from the President's FY15 request despite the fact that Secretary Hagel has consistently warned that if cuts to our military readiness persist, and we were confronted with an emerging threat, "the United States may not have enough ready forces to respond."

This year's NDAA also includes a provision to continue funding restrictions on the construction or modification of detention facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees. I was particularly disappointed that an amendment offered by Ranking Member SMITH to provide a framework for closure of Guantanamo by the end of 2016 was rejected. As the President made clear in his State of the Union Address earlier this year, we cannot wait any longer to close down this facility.

I also share many of the other concerns that were outlined in the President's Statement of Administration Policy. This includes language that restricts the Pentagon from retiring the A-10 aircraft and a provision that authorizes \$20 million in unrequested funding in FY15 for the planning and design of a missile field on the East Coast. I also oppose sections 314, 315, 316, and 317, which would prohibit the Department of Defense from using alternative fuels and would limit the ability of our military from developing alternative energy sources that have the potential to save money and enhance our energy security.

Despite my opposition to the overall legislation, I was pleased that a bipartisan amendment offered by Representative PATRICK MURPHY and Representative MICK MULVANEY to address the migration of base budget funding into the OCO budget was adopted. We have worked together to ensure that the OCO budget is no longer used as a mechanism to circumvent budget caps. I am also encouraged that this bill builds on a number of provisions passed in last year's NDAA and continues to address the problem of sexual assault in the military. In particular, it would eliminate the so-called "good soldier defense" in court-martial proceedings, prohibiting a soldier from using good military character as a defense in a sexual assault case. These proceedings should be based on the specific evidence presented in the case.

This bill does authorize much needed funding for our men and women in uniform but ultimately it ignores the current budget landscape that our military is facing. We have to budget based on reality, instead of writing a blank check and holding onto as "much of the stuff and the training as possible" and hoping that

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